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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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JULY, 1904.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The fifty-fourth annual meeting of the American Medical Association was the most successful in its history, so far as attendance was concerned. Something over 2,800 members registered at Atlantic City. As a meeting place, it would be hard to find a more satisfactory city, for the hotel accommodations are almost unlimited. A little matter of two or three thousand people does not bother 800 hotels! There was less work in the House of Delegates than was the case last year, though there was still too much time wasted. The Association is committing a serious error in doing too much tinkering with its constitution and by-laws, and in allowing a "close corporation" of individual members, representing but four or five States, to run the whole machine. Organization is progressing rapidly and satisfactorily, it is true, and it is to be hoped that it may so continue. There is, however, a very decided undercurrent of feeling of resentment, and this should not be overlooked by the gentlemen of the coterie. If the organization is to be effectively *held together when once secured*, there must be evident less "close corporation" politics and more broadness in dealing with those questions which affect the general tone of the whole profession. The Association must, sooner or later, recognize that a control which makes its *Journal* the "greatest advertising medium for proprietary preparations" in the United States is not the control that will hold together State Associations which do not approve of this policy; there are such, and their number is rapidly increasing.

The American Medical Association selected Portland as the place for the next meeting. The committee on place of meeting recommended Los Angeles. Hot Springs, Ark., and San Francisco had also filed invitations for the 1905 meeting. San Francisco was rejected because the American Medical Association had already convened in that Pacific Coast city, and the committee thought that the Association, if meeting on the Coast, should go to some other city. The very able delegate from Oregon, Dr. K. A. J. Mackenzie of Portland, assured the House of Delegates that there would be ample accommodation for all by the time of the meeting. We sincerely trust that nothing may interfere with the completion of the hotels now building, and that the Portland meeting may be in the highest degree a successful one. Portland is easily accessible from almost every part of California, and our State should have a very large representation at the next meeting. We cordially extend to Portland our very best of good wishes, and offer any assistance in our power, should such be needed.

A criticism that has been made in previous years can be repeated this year, if one considers the hodge-podge of stuff in the "Hall of Exhibits" at the A. M. A. meeting. It is a disgrace to the Association that it should permit the foisting of nostrums upon physicians at these meetings. There need be no misunderstanding of this matter. A nostrum is a secret remedy, one the actual component parts of which are not known, and booth after booth in the "Hall of (disgraceful) Exhibits" displayed such wares. If exhibiting this stuff at the meetings and advertising it in the Association's *Journal* is not "promoting the use of secret remedies," will some kind friend be good enough to say just what it is? The responsibility rests with the Trustees; it is plainly up to them to insist upon decency, or else openly confess that the Association is out for money, clean or dirty, so long as it is money; that money, and not a high professional standing, is what they are after.

At Atlantic City, during the meeting of the A. M. A., an association of State Medical Society Journals was formed. The objects of this association are very simple. **STATE JOURNALS.** The first one is to come to a common understanding as to what shall be considered ethical in the matter of advertisements. Another is the hope that, by concerted action along lines of policy agreed to by all, very much greater influence may be brought to bear